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THE AVENGERS

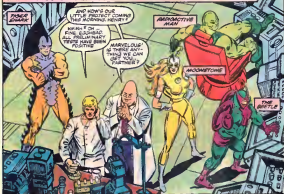
HENRY PYM'S LAST STAND AGAINST...

...THE EVIL
OF
EGGHEAD!

THIS IS IT!



TODAY... FOR HOURS UNDER THE ALIEN'S OF THE CRIMINAL DOUBT KNOW AS THE MASTERS OF EVIL...



PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE SOME BREAKFAST?

IT'S A NIGHTMARE! HE GET ME UP ON A CHAIR OF THE ALIEN...



...AND THEN, WHEN HE NEEDED AN EXPERTISE FOR HIS PROJECT, HE HAD HIS LIVES ABOUT THE ALIEN ON TALE.

"THEN HE GET ME UP AGAIN... ARCTONITE A BREADCRUMB-ED UNDERSTOOD WHO WAS DISCOVERED TO TELL THE ALIEN... THAT I HAD ENGINEERED MY 'RELEASE'."

"HOW THE WORLD THINKS HIM A CRIMINAL. THE ONLY PLACE LEFT WHERE I CAN WORK..."



HE'S HERE... HENRY? I NEED...

CORRUP... CORRUPT... JUST CORRUPT...

STILL NOT READY
FOR THE FOLLOW-UP
INTERVIEW.
CAPTAIN
JANSEN ?

LOWER THE NOISE, AND
REDUCE LIGHT POLLU-
TION. A GREAT
CONTRIBUTION.

A FORMER MEMBER OF DEGRACE LO
NATIONAL NEWS FROM 1961 TO 1962
AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH. (U)

GOOD LORD- THESE ARE TWO OF THE MOST CAPABLE MEN I'VE EVER MET! IF THEY'VE BEEN SHOT DOWN AND OUT, WE'VE LOST A THIRD OF THE BEST WE'VE GOT.





MR. JIMMY KIM FINE
THIS IS WASTED...

SCOTT
LANE!

WE'RE NOT
THANKS



AND... AS THE FUTURE
OUTLER POINTS...

THIS IS A WARNING
MAYBE YOU
WANT IT

SCOTT, I'M
RUNNING FOR
MY STARK



TOMMY...

WHERE IS HE?



I WISH I KNEW
IT'S LIKE THE
EARTH JUST
SWALLOWED
HIM UP. IT'S
GONE, TOO.

ALL OF STARK INTERNATIONAL IS IN AN
URGENT... FIRST, MR. STARK ASKS ME TO
FINISH UP ONE OF HIS RUSH PROJECTIONS
FOR THE AGENCY...

...SOMETHING HE
NEEDS DONE, THEN
HE SAYS THAT
SCOTT'S
DISAPPEARING
ACT...

AND NOW, THE
TOWN IS FULL OF
NEWS ABOUT
HANK, FOR
RUNNING OFF
WITH SOMETHING
CALLED THE
FACTORY OF
EVIL.

WASP, WHAT'S
GOING ON?



I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW
SCOTT, SOMETIMES IT
SEEMS THAT THE WHOLE
WORLD IS FALLING APART
ON US.

HANK, THIS
WILL BE
STARK
TOLD ME
THAT CAP
WOULD
KNOW ABOUT
IT.



AND IF IT'S
WELL, I COULD
LOVE A HAND, TOO.
IT COULD CHANGE
TO ANT-MAN
AND...



AND NO, THIS'LL
BE MORE THAN
ENOUGH. WE
CAN'T... THANK
YOU FOR
EVERYTHING.

GOOD-BYE

WAS IT
BETTER?

SLAM

JUST RIGHT NOW, I
COULD FEEL IT.
EVERYTHING IS
FALLING APART.
HANK, I'M
NOT AN ANT-MAN.

IT WOULD STIR
UP TOO MANY
MEMORIES OF THE
OLD DAYS... WHEN
HANK WAS THE
COUNTRY, AND WE
WERE LOVING.



LOOK, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH AN ENOUGH WRINGER FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, BUT YOU CAN'T LET IT GET TO YOU LIKE THIS.

YOU POLICE DON'T GET ALONG BECAUSE MOST OF THE MUCKIN' GOES ON OUT THERE, BUT WHAT LITTLE MUCK THAT DOES FILTER OUT IS ALL SOOTY AND... YOU'RE THE JERKBOARDS! YOU'RE LEGENDS!

...EVERY ONE OF YOU! YOU'VE PROBABLY SAVED THE POOR WORLD MORE TIMES THAN ANYONE CAN EVEN JUDGE!



AND YOU CAN TALK THROUGH THOSE GEAR-TOOTH! BUT NOT IF YOU KEEP ACTING THE WAY YOU'RE BEING!



HAVE A CARE! AS YOU SAY, WE ARE THE JERKBOARDS, BUT WE ARE ALSO YOUR Saviors. IF IT IS UNUSUALLY FOR--

WAIT, THEN LET'S HEAR HER OUT FIRST!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO, CAPTAIN?



MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY LOOKING AT THINGS FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES. MAYBE DEPT. 978 REALLY WAS SET UP BY THAT GOATHEAD REVENGE--

--LIKE HE CLAIMED BEFORE HIS TRIAL!



GOATHEAD IS DEAD!

YOU'VE FOUGHT OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE OFFICIALLY LISTED AS DEAD?
AND THIS WAS YOU, CAPTAIN--THE BROOKER--THE ONE WHO CLAIMS THAT DEPT. 978 REALLY KILLED THE MASTER OF EVIL TO FREE HIM--

--MAYBE HE'S THE ONE WHO'S CRAZY, NOT YOU OR DEPT. 978!



MAYBE IT'S THE BROOKER WHO SHOULD HAVE HIS HEAD EXAMINED!

CAPTAIN, THINK YOU'RE GETTING SOMETHING!



AT THAT MOMENT

LOOK, CAN'T YOU JUST TRY IT?

I DON'T WANT TO, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.



I GIVE UP!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I TRIED! I SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT YOU'VE TURNED BACK INTO A PLAIN-JANE LADY LATER!

I NEVER LIKED THE ONE-WALK! ALL THE OTHERS WERE BETTER! HE SAID!



BUT AT LEAST SHE WASN'T A WOMAN LIKE YOU!!



PLEASE DON'T...

OH, THAT'S GOOD! NO MORE AND GO!

TRY FOR THE OLD SYMBIONESE FLOYD! YOUR TYPE REALLY GETS ONE ON THAT!

WHAT?!



HOW DARE YOU?!

SMACK



WELL, I GUESS YOU SHOULD ME!

IT WAS THE WAY THAT SHE SUFFERED TO MEET!

WOW! WOW! WOW!





MOONSTON IS A SECRET LABORATORY
WHICH HARBORS THE MOST
DANGEROUS SPELLING...



THAT'S THE FINAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE COMBINATION
OF ELECTROMAGNETIC REVERBERATIONS AND DNA DEPLICATION
CIRCULATORS SHOULD PROVE US WITH A PRACTICAL
LONGEVITY MACHINE!



WHAT? YOU'RE
FASCINATED?

THAT'S
WHAT I DO!

IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE EXPECTED
MONTHS OF RESEARCH
BEFORE YOU COULD EVEN
BEGIN TO THINK OF A
DESIGN!



ACCIDENTALLY, I WAS LUCKY IN
STUMBING UPON A BREAKTHROUGH
IN MICRO-CELLULAR RECONSTRUCTU-
TION, BUT THEN YOU DID BRING
ME HERE TO PRODUCE
RESULTS.

THAT'S WHAT
I'VE DONE



DON'T YOU
BELIEVE ME?

IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE IT!



THIS
MAY BE A
TRICK.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF
US THAT PERSISTED WITH THE
PROJECT... AND NOW CLASHES ARE
ON! DO YOU KEEP ON HURRY?

WELL...

MOONSTONE HAS A POINT
THAT THINGS MIGHT BE
DESIGNED TO END LIFE, IN-
STEAD OF PROLONGING IT!



THAT'S
THEM SAYING
THAT IT'S ON
THE FIRST!



IS THAT'S THE
WAY YOU WANT IT?
THAT'S THE WAY...

"I STAGN BEHIND MY
WORK 100%. I'LL
BE YOUR JUNIOR
P.D. IF YOU'VE ALL
NO APPRAH OF
GIVING A LONG
AND VITAL LIFE!

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT
THE ONLY WAY THOSE
WHEAT-MARSHALLS
FIT!"

"HEY, I JUST HAD
A THOUGHT. WHAT
IF HE HADN'T
HAD THOUGHT TO
KILL HIM?"

"IF I WAS
THAT THOUGHT
OF LIVING, I
COULD HAVE
KILLED IT ALL
THROUGH DAYS
AGO!"

"DON'T
GIVE
THAT TONE
WITH ME,
HENRY!
I'M!"

"I THINK
I MIGHT
ENJOY
GIVING
YOU AS A
GUESS
P.D.!"

"STRAF HIM
IN, BOYS—
GOOD AND
THAT!"

"AND EVEN AS
OBERSTON, I'M
ALL RIGHT. HE
NEVER BECAME
A D.P.M."

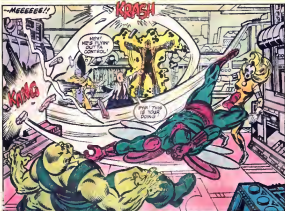
"BEHIND ALL THE
THINKING I PUT HIM
THROUGH, I WAS NEVER
ABLE TO BRING HIM
THAT COMPLETELY
NEW!"

"PERHAPS I'LL
TRY AGAIN,
AFTER THE
TEST!"

"HEY, HE'S
SUPPOSED TO
ALIVE LIKE
THAT?"

HM
MM
MM
MM
MM

"EVENHAP, I'M JUST AN ENGINEER,
NOT A HOT-SPOT SCIENTIST LIKE YOU.
BUT THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE A FORCE-
FIELD TO—"



















IF YOU THINK THE STORY BUILT UP AND WORTH READING, OUR MOST HONORABLE GARDEN CITY NEXT GARDEN WITH...

THE LAST FAREWELL!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

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367 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10010

MANAGING EDITOR
MICHAEL CARLIS
EDITOR
JOHN BUCHA

Dear Jan,

By the time this gets to you, you will have already sent the AVENGERS team to another writer...one whom I hope will be just as good as you have been. But, I must comment on issue #224.

Some readers may have had a negative reaction to an issue that appears to be a soap opera, with many a villain to be fought (aside from a two-panel cameo by Ironhead). Others, like myself, will want to congratulate you for more than living up to the cover blurb, "The Most Offbeat Avengers Team...Ever!"

"Way Beyond the Heart" was one of the most realistic stories I've read. Tony Stark kept having people tell him that they don't know how they could get by without a drink, and Janet Van Dyne was plagued by an unwilling media and friends who meant well out who kept throwing her ex-husband's plight in her face.

It's always a strange experience to follow the development of characters at the Marvel Universe. Henry Pym and Janet Van Dyne have come a considerable distance from "The Man in the Ant Hill" and "The Creature from Swamp Rock" all those years ago.

Stephen Danner
60 Woodbury Street
New Rochelle, NY 10805

Well, Steve, if some people looked back issue #224, they're doing a good job of making it. We haven't received so many new reviews since 1979's *Michael Savage* (it's almost embarrassing!)

Dear Marvel,

AVENGERS #224 was a touching heart-rendering story.

I can easily understand Tony's need for Jan, even his at an extremely reprehensible man. Most of the close friends and confidantes have been with him. Naturally, he would gravitate toward the strongest, bravest, witty, generous, elegant Janet Van Dyne — coming in last as well perhaps, a need for love and a second spot.

I think they belong together. Jan needs what Hank could never give her — understanding and support. And Tony, miserable as he is, needs a woman who is truly fond of him. It seems clear that Hank and Jan are through, despite Dr. Pym's selfish fantasies. So, here's hoping that Jan gets over her guilt towards Hank and realizes that Anthony Stark is the right man for her. Although I sincerely hope in vain, I have waited years to see Tony and Jan get it together, so I thank you — at least — for this fine issue.

Kathryn Newman
1101 Main Street
Bridgport, CT 06606

Dear Mark,

The Yellowjacket saga has made the AVENGERS my favorite book. The new developments in issue #224 were good, although I think you tried to do too much in a single issue. The affair would have been more effective if it had been spread over, say, three issues.

It miss Big Jim's wife on the AVENGERS, but from what I've seen of Roger

Steen's work on GHOST RIDER and DOCTOR STRANGE, I'm not worried about the future of the book.

Jon Nuttall
20 Bailey Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602

Don't worry, Jan — Big Jim's presence is still very much felt (and appreciated) by the A-Team's steady state.

Dear Mark,

Thanks to Jim Shooter for thinking up such an offbeat story. Having Tony and Jan together as a romantic situation was a stroke of genius.

Credit is also due Alan Zelenetz, who did a bang-up job of laying down the words. I particularly like the scenes between Stark and Cap on pages 18 and 19. Stark's guilt and frustration were nicely understated. Another nice touch was the reference to Stark's alcoholism. Like the hero that he is, Tony Stark continuously battles with the Demon Alcohol. And Janet's reaction to the ultimate revelation of Iron Man's identity was superb. And finally, Alan let the air escape for itself via-at Henry Pym's reaction to the affair. As the cover copy asked, what will he do about it?

These stories-without-violence are fine, even desirable. They provide an excellent opportunity for character development. But let's not forget that the Avengers are Earth's Mightiest Heroes — and as such, they should naturally battle the Earth's deadliest foes. Bring back Ultron, preferably in a three- or four-part story. Have him get out of that vat in which he was trapped in issue #202. Get rid of the She-Hulk and replace her with the Jack of Hearts.

This is a great book. Let's make it great. Tuff head.

Jim Thayer
National Archives
Washington National Records Center
Washington, DC 20540

Tuff head, indeed. And in fact, it's our goal to make AVENGERS the Marvel Comic, and nothing less!

By the way, if you picked up MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #212 and #213, you already know that Ultron is no longer a negative of that vat. However, as he is also no longer functioning, it might be some time before he shows his somewhat kinder in those parts.

As for the She-Hulk... well, we might consider it. But only if Jack of Hearts tells her that he's her replacement (Hood-bog! What a battle that would start!)



Dear Mark,

I must admit that I hesitated about commenting on AVENGERS #224, because I wasn't sure that it would put into words what I felt. So, I read the story over a couple of times, letting all the details sink in, and now I think I've figured out what I wanted to say.

This story was a gem, a welcome contrast to the goody-goody G-daddy stories of recent years. The facts you'd dropped added a distance between Tony Stark and the "Wasp" proved to be true. I also think you've plotted beyond a doubt that super heroes — at least those who work in groups — need to know the identities of their closest companions. That could not have offered comfort to Iron Man as effectively without the knowledge of the Avenger's identity. And think of the grief Jan would have been spared had she known who Tony Stark was.

The story of Hank Pym's life is going to be a good one. I'm looking forward to it. It seems to be slowly gaining control of himself. I hope you'll be able to end his story on a hopeful, if not happy, note. Hank is a character you created he'll have to see himself up in an institution or driven to suicide.

As for the other Avengers, they were portrayed beautifully. From Cap's indifference to the reports between the She-Hulk and Hawkeye, the dialogue (or usual) really worked.

We'll miss you, Jim, but you sure have gone out with class. Congratulations.

Amy Sachs
401 Crestly Avenue
Dear Park, NJ 07622

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION

...In case you haven't noticed (and shame on you if you haven't), Iron Man is missing from the ranks of the Avengers! To find out why, all you have to do is pick up the next issue of IRON MAN and marvel at what is shaping up to be one of the hottest storylines to grace that heart-a-ming in a month of Sundays. Credit goes to Dennis O'Neil, Luke McDonnell, and Steve Mitchell for this lather-dye masterpiece.

...If you're the kind of reader who can't get enough of the Avengers, you have no further to look than next month's INCREDIBLE HULK when the mighty assemblers join the non-intelligent green gent in battle against Arsenal (remember him from AVENGERS ANNUAL #27)? You'll love to the historic first meeting between Hulk and his cousin She-Hulk, too. All this and more in INCREDIBLE HULK #225-226, beginning next month.

...And finally, NEXT ISSUE! Henry Pym is in the class. The Masters of Evil are put behind bars, and Squirrel is no more. But what of Hawkeye? Hey, you ought to know by now that you can't second-guess that yarm-squashed! They only way you'll know what happens next is to buy a copy of AVENGERS #226 and read "The Last Farewell!" It's a grabber!